

Society of Saint Pius X

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SAINT MARY'S NEWSLETTER



MAY 2017

My Dear Faithful,



pringtime is always a refreshing period: nature is getting greener, flowers are blooming, life seems to reappear after the cold of winter. This is a good image of our spiritual life. It is not easy to be consistently good, to increase continually our fervour. Indeed, we often have different periods during which our courage and generosity are not so prominent. However, we must never give up but, on the contrary, always try to revive our desires to have a good and more solid spiritual life.

During this month of May, this should be made easier by increasing our fervour in our Marian devotion. Our Lady is truly our heavenly mother to whom we must confide ourselves. We are all familiar with the means of honouring Our Blessed Lady, but do we benefit from them as much as we could? Unfortunately we all have tendencies to slow down in our fervour and confidence because of the routine of daily life or because of the many things which interest us more. But what is the most essential care that we should have which is for our soul?

Let us then honour Our Lady firstly by putting her picture, or statue, in a place of honour and also by decorating it with flowers. Then, by the occasional look at her, we will be reminded of her



maternal protection over us. Then we should recommend ourselves to her by praying. The daily Rosary obviously ought to be the main prayer to give her great honour. Also, it is a very good thing to add the Litany of Loreto or the prayer Memorare at the end of our Rosary in order to express our total confidence in the one who is our best intercessor with God. Our Lady is our Mediatrix who can transform our poor prayers and petitions so that they may be pleasant to God and therefore touch His heart.

Our Lady is for us an example to imitate, but she is as well a proof that God, with His grace, can perform the most beautiful miracles. God will work miracles of grace if we desire it, and if we dispose ourselves to receive and use this grace. It is what God did through His Immaculate mother and it is His dearest will to work similar spiritual beauties in our souls. We just have to let Him work.

Let us invoke Our Lady with greater confidence and love. She will help us persevere despite our difficulties and struggles. May she always be our advocate with God to plead our cause and obtain for us all we need to secure the salvation of our souls.

God bless you all.

Father Vianney Vandendaele +

Our Lady of Perpetual Succour

The picture of Our Lady of Perpetual Succour is painted on wood, with background of gold. It is Byzantine in style and is supposed to have been painted in the thirteenth century. It represents the Mother of God holding the Divine Child while the Archangels Michael and Gabriel present before Him the instruments of His Passion. Over the figures in the picture are some Greek letters which form the abbreviated words Mother of God, Jesus Christ, Archangel Michael, and Archangel Gabriel respectively. It was brought to Rome towards the end of the fifteenth century by a pious merchant, who, dying there, ordered by his will that the picture should be exposed in a church for public veneration. It was exposed in the church of San Matteo, Via Merulana, between St. Mary Major and St. John Lateran. Crowds flocked to this church, and for nearly three hundred years many graces were obtained through the intercession of the Blessed Virgin. The picture was then popularly called the Madonna di San Matteo. The church was served for a time by the Hermits of St. Augustine, who had sheltered their Irish brethren in their distress. These Augustinians were still in charge when the French invaded Rome (1812) and destroyed church. The picture disappeared; it remained hidden and neglected for over forty years, but a series of providential circumstances between 1863 and 1865 led to its discovery in an oratory of the Augustinian Fathers at Santa Maria in Posterula.

The pope, Pius IX, who as a boy had prayed before the picture in San Matteo, became interested in the discovery and in a letter dated from 11th December 1865 to Father General Mauron, C.Ss.R., ordered that



Our Lady of Perpetual Succour should be again publicly venerated in Via Merulana, and this time at the new church of St. Alphonsus. The ruins of San Matteo were in the grounds of the Redemptorist Convent. This was but the first favour of the Holy Father towards the picture. He approved of the solemn translation of the picture (26th April 1866), and its coronation by the Vatican Chapter (23th June 1867). He fixed the feast as duplex secundae classis, on the Sunday before the Feast of the Nativity of St. John the Baptist, and by a decree dated from May 1876, approved of a special office and Mass for the Congregation of the Most Holy Redeemer. This favour later on was also granted to others. Learning that the devotion to Our Lady under this title had spread far and wide, Pius IX raised a confraternity of Our Lady of Perpetual Succour and St. Alphonsus, which had been erected in Rome, to the rank of an arch-confraternity and enriched it with many privileges and indulgences. He was amongst the first to visit the picture in its new home, and his name is the first in the register of the arch-confraternity. Two thousand three hundred facsimiles of the Holy Picture have been sent from St. Alphonsus' church in Rome to every part of the world. At the present day not only altars, but churches and dioceses (e.g. in England, Leeds and Middlesborough; in the United States Savannah) are dedicated to Our Lady of Perpetual Succour.

(From Catholic encyclopedia)

The Secret of the Rosary

Third Rose

Saint Dominic

This miraculous way in which the devotion to the Holy Rosary was established is something of a parallel to the way in which Almighty God gave His

law to the world on Mount Sinai and obviously proves its value and importance.

Inspired by the Holy Ghost, instructed by the Blessed Virgin as well as by



his own experience, Saint Dominic preached the Holy Rosary for the rest of his life. He preached it by his example as well as by his sermons, in cities and in country places, to people of high station and low, before scholars and the uneducated, to Catholics and to heretics.

The Holy Rosary which he said every day was his preparation for every sermon and his little tryst with Our Lady immediately after preaching.

One day he had to preach at Notre Dame in Paris, and it happened to be the feast of St. John the Evangelist. He was in a little chapel behind the high altar prayerfully preparing his sermon by saying the Rosary, as he always did, when Our Lady appeared to him and said:

"Dominic, even though what you have planned to say may be very good, I am bringing you a much better sermon."

Saint Dominic took in his hands the book Our Lady proffered, read the sermon carefully and when he had understood it and meditated on it, he gave thanks to the Blessed Mother.



When the time came, he went up into the pulpit and, in spite of the feast day, made no mention of Saint John other than to say that he had been found worthy to be the guardian of the Queen of Heaven. The congregation was made up of theologians and other eminent people who were used to hearing unusual and polished discourses; but Saint Dominic told them that it was not his wish to give them a learned discourse, wise in the eyes of the world, but that he would speak in the simplicity of the Holy Spirit and with His forcefulness.

So he began preaching the Holy Rosary and explained the Hail Mary word by word as he would to a group of children and used the very simple illustrations which were in the book Our Lady had given him.

Carthagera, the great scholar, quoting Blessed Alan de la Roche in *De Dignitate Psalterii*, describes how

this took place:

"Blessed Alan writes that one day Father Dominic said to him in a vision: 'My son, it is good to preach; but there is always a danger of looking for praise rather than the salvation of souls. Listen carefully to what happened to me in Paris so that you may be on guard against this kind of mistake: I was to preach in the great church dedicated to the Blessed Virgin Mary and I was particularly anxious to give a brilliant sermon, not out of pride, but because of the high intellectual stature of the congregation.

'An hour before the time I had to preach, I was recollectedly saying my Rosary—as I always did before giving a sermon—when I fell into ecstasy. I saw my beloved friend the Mother of God coming towards me with a book in her hand. 'Dominic,' she said, 'your sermon for today may be very good indeed, but no matter how good it is I have brought you one that is very much better.'

'Of course I was overjoyed, took the book and read every word of it. Just as Our Lady had said, I found exactly the right things to say in my sermon, so I thanked her with all my heart.

'When it was time to begin, I saw that the University of Paris had turned out in full force as well as a large number of noblemen. They had all seen and heard of the great things that the good Lord had been doing through me. So I went up into the pulpit.

'It was the feast of Saint John the Apostle but all I said about him was that he had been found worthy to be the guardian of the Queen of Heaven. Then I addressed the congregation:

" 'My Lords and illustrious Doctors of the University, you are accustomed to hearing learned sermons suited to your aesthetic tastes. Now I do not want to speak to you in the scholarly language of human wisdom but, on the contrary, to show you the Spirit of God and His Greatness.' "

Here ends the quotation from Blessed Alan, after which Carthagera goes on to say in his own words:

"Then Saint Dominic explained the Angelic Salutation to them, using simple comparisons and examples from everyday life."

Notices

Holy Feasts

Ascension: Thursday 25th May
Corpus Christi: Thursday 15th June
Sacred Heart of Jesus: Friday 23rd June
Saints Peter and Paul: Thursday 29th June

Same schedule every time:

- ◆ Manchester: 12.30pm
- ◆ Preston: 7pm

Recent Death

Of your charity, please pray for the repose of the souls of:

- ◆ Mrs. Maria Williams of Stoke-on-Trent;
- ◆ Mr. Henry Fraser of Bagillt (North Wales);
- ◆ Mrs. Joan Harrison of Liverpool;
- ◆ Mrs. Sheila Biggs of St. Helens;
- ◆ Mr. Philip Maher of Liverpool.

May they rest in peace.

Sacramental Records

Have become soldiers of Christ:

- ◆ Rosa Stemp;
- ◆ Leo Stemp.

At Burghclere on
29th April 2017



Sunday Mass Schedule and Locations

PRESTON: Our Lady of Victories' Church
East Cliff, off Winckley Square - PR1 3NA

Every Sunday: 9.30am

MANCHESTER: Saint Pius X's Chapel
16 Deerpark Road, off Alexandra Road South - M16 8FR

Every Sunday: 12.30pm

LIVERPOOL: Saint Peter and Paul's Church
35 Upper Parliament Street - L8 7LA

2nd & 4th Sunday of the month: 5pm

RHOS-ON-SEA: Saint David's Chapel
Conwy Road (A547), Mochdre - LL28 5AA (North Wales)

1st Sunday of the month: 5pm

BINGLEY: The Little House
Market Street - BD16 2HP

3rd Sunday of the month: 5pm

Ordinary Weekday Masses at Preston

(This schedule is subject to change; please check beforehand on the **outside notice board** or <http://fsspx.uk> — **Mass Times**)

Monday: variable

Tuesday: —

Wednesday: —

Thursday: —

1st Friday: 7pm

1st Saturday: Holy Hour at 10.30am & Mass at 12.15pm